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U.S. Delays Providing Ransom

Set to Aid Cuban Deal If Necessary

MIAMI—A—Lawyer James Donovan said late Thursday he had returned to Miami to await Cuban Premier Fidel Castro's decision on whether he will accept an offer of medicine, drugs and baby foods for release of the 1,113 Bay of Pigs invasion prisoners.

"No money is involved," Donovan emphasized.

BY DAVID KRASLOW
Washington Bureau Staff

WASHINGTON

Chances are the Federal Government will not pay any part of the ransom for the 1,113 prisoners taken in last year's invasion of Cuba, according to top Kennedy Administration sources.

But these sources said the Government might make up the difference if the Cuban Families Committee for the Liberation of Prisoners of War is unable to raise the full ransom.

"The prospects are good that the committee will do it all from private sources," one official said. "They have raised quite a bit already. We won't know until the committee gets an agreement with Fidel Castro."

Officials conceded Thursday that negotiations with the Cuban Premier have bogged down and that several "details" still have to be worked out, including apparently the amount of the ransom.

York attorney who is negotiating the deal, returned to Miami from Havana Thursday.

Informants said Donovan's trip should not be interpreted as meaning the negotiations have failed—"he is leaving, but returning." Donovan and Castro met Wednesday night for four hours to discuss the prisoners' release, but reached no agreement.

Washington officials were

hopeful, however, that there would be an agreement soon. They said the ransom would not include cash—only food and medicines, primarily the latter.

Meanwhile, Rep. William C. Cramer (R., Fla.) asked for a Congressional investigation of the negotiations and the reports of proposals to pay some of the ransom in dollars from Central Intelligence Agency funds.

"This is about the greatest abuse of Presidential discretion I can remember in the history of this country," Cramer said.

He said he never had voted for any bill "that would permit the President to . . . give in to blackmail threats by an enemy government and, in particular, Fidel Castro."

IT APPEARED that the Government's readiness to chip in with at least part of the ransom stems not from any formal advance agreement with the Families Committee but from the Administration's strong desire to see the prisoners return to the United States.

It is known that President Kennedy feels some responsibility for the men captured in the United States-backed invasion attempt of April, 1961.

Nor is it any secret that Donovan, has kept the Administration advised of his activities.

Political reports persist that Mr. Kennedy once thought Donovan should quit the New York Senate race if he won the release of the prisoners.

BUT DONOVAN, who is seeking to unseat Republican Senator Jacob K. Javits, apparently couldn't withdraw now under the terms of New York State election laws.

down to 258, just 40 more than the required 218.

The farm department appropriations bill was only one of a half-dozen measures standing between the 87th Congress and adjournment. Swift action on all seemed likely once the farm-money dispute was settled.

A relatively minor \$25-million item in the \$5 billion